

Remarks

It is noted that 37 CFR § 1.121 amendments are optional on November 7, 2000 and become mandatory on March 1, 2001 and that no amendments (under the former or current practice) should be denied entry during this time for reasons relating to the effective date(s) of the rule change. Given that amendments may be made under the former rule until March 1, 2001, it is noted that the present amendment is submitted under the format of the former practice (pre November 7, 2000).

In the Office Action of 10/24/2000, the Examiner rejected claims 1 - 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) unpatentable over an IEEE publication, dated March 1998, entitled "Enterprise Knowledge Management" in view of an IEEE publication, dated June 1998, entitled "Knowledge Management Systems." This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above rejection of claims 1 - 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is improper as it relies on references which do not qualify as prior art under 103(a). In particular, the references relied on by the Examiner have prior art dates of March and June 1998; while the present application claims priority to provisional application filed on October 21, 1997. Thus, the present application has an effective filing date of October 21, 1997 that predates the cited references.

The present application was filed on June 26, 1998 and properly claimed priority to a provisional application filed October 21, 1997. The declaration filed with the present application claimed priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119 to provisional application no. 60/062,933, filed on October 21, 1997. Additionally, this priority claim to provisional application no. 60/062,933 was noted on the PTO "Blue Sheet" filing receipt. The present application did not add any new matter to the provisional application. The specification only differs from the provisional by the addition of a paragraph in the background of the invention describing a prior art reference as well as the correction of a few minor typographical errors. Thus, the present application

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is entitled to the priority date of 10/21/97 which predates both of the cited references.

The present application has been amended to move the priority claim to a previously filed provisional application from after the field of invention to immediately after the title. Additionally, this priority claim to an earlier filed provisional application has been amended to correct an error in the series prefix of the serial number given for the provisional application. The series number, which was incorrectly given as "08", has been changed to --60--.

Entrance of this amendment as well as reconsideration and allowance of the claims remaining are therefore respectfully requested. No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, The undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney (or agent) hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

Respectfully submitted,



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